

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed March 1, 2006 has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Claims 1-36 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 17, 31 and 36 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added by this response. Therefore, claims 1-36 are pending in the application and submitted for reconsideration.

In addition, the Applicant would like to thank Examiner Hirl for his excellent comments and suggestions in the telephone interviews held March 15, 2006, March 21, 2006, April 21, 2006, April 25, 2006, May 15, 2006 and May 17, 2006.

§ 102 REJECTIONS

Claims 1-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Douik, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,012,152.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the reasons set forth herein. As requested by the Examiner, independent claims 1, 17, 31 and 36 have been amended to more clearly distinguish the claimed inventions from Douik. In particular, the independent claims have been amended to include, “a plurality of self-monitoring agents providing self healing of agents functions”, “wherein agents carrying out actions in their local environments include messaging to other agents, site directory service, scheduling actions, or implementing response functions within the monitored network”, and “wherein should an agent fail, the related functions are reassigned to another agent, until the failed agent is repaired or restarted.” Douik neither discloses nor suggests the claimed combination of features of independent claims 1, 17, 31 and 36. Thus, Douik does not anticipate independent claims 1, 17, 31 and 36. Further, because dependent claims included all of the limitations of the claims upon which they depend, Douik does not anticipate any of the dependent claims.

§ MISCELLANEOUS

Per suggestion of the Examiner, Independent claims 1, 17, 31 and 36 have been amended to address the Office’s new utility guidelines. Claims 1 and 31 have been amended to include “stored in a computer readable medium,” language specifically suggested in Annex IV, section (a) of the “Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Application for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility.”

Claim 17 is a method claim, not requiring this amendment while claim 36 already includes similar language. Additionally, as suggested by the Examiner, the word "appropriately" has been removed from the claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Entry of this amendment and an early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number shown below.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2228, under Order No. 021818.0103PTUS from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2228. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-2228. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2228.

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Respectfully submitted,

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